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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,697	03/03/2004	Yasusuke Iwashita	392.1879	4331

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

SMITH, TYRONE W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2837

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,697

Applicant(s)

IWASHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Tyrone W. Smith

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,8,16 and 18-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,8 and 18-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The indicated allowability of claim is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference combination of Nakagawa (JP09-042406) and Maezawa et al (6333615). Rejections based on the previous cited references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maezawa et al (6333615) in view of Nakagawa (JP09-042406).

Regarding Claim 16. Maezawa discloses a synchronization control device for servo motors which includes a position control unit (column 23 lines 12-16) for outputting velocity commands at each predetermined cycle on the basis of the position deviation between position feedback from a position detector (Figure 2 items 15 and 25) and position command (Figure 2 items SWA1 and SWA2) transmitted at each predetermined sampling cycle from a host control device or a host control unit and a velocity control unit (column 23 lines 17-20) for outputting torque commands at each predetermined cycle on the basis of velocity feedback from velocity detectors (Figure 2 items 17 and 27) and the velocity commands from the position control unit (column 23 lines 12-16), wherein the synchronous control device (Figure 1 items 16 and 26) synchronously controls two servomotors (Figure 1 items 14 and 24; Figure 2 items 14 and 24)

for driving the same control object (Figure 1 item 1) and further comprises two servomotors (abstract; Figure 13). However, Maezawa does not disclose reducing the force between the two servomotors.

Nakagawa discloses driving device for a moving body that includes two servomotors (Figure 1 items 10A and 10B), two detectors (Figure 1 items 11A and 11B) and a numerical controller (Figure 1 item 12) wherein the driving torque/force applied on both ends of a ball screw, connected to the servomotors, is reduced and thereby the twist degree of the ball screw is reduced.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the invention of Maezawa with Nakagawa's invention. The advantage of combining the two would provide a means of reducing or adjusting control of the servomotors connected to a workpiece by sensing the torque or force between two servomotors, from the combination of invention described above, thereby improved positioning and accuracy of the workpiece is achieve without overload.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 5, 8, and 18-20 in condition for allowance.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tyrone W. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2075. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lincoln Donovan, can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 37. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tyrone Smith
Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2837



LINCOLN DONOVAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER